IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by replacing the original paragraph at page 1, lines 6-8, with the following amended paragraph:

> Embodiments of the present invention relate ~~The present technique relates~~ generally to preventative maintenance of devices. Particularly, one embodiment ~~the technique~~ relates to a technique for determining service intervals for medical devices.

Further, please amend the specification by replacing the original paragraph at page 1, lines 10-17, with the following amended paragraph:

> In the field of medical equipment, such as imaging systems, patient monitors, and other types of diagnostic and monitoring equipment, regular maintenance is important for providing ~~in continuing to provide~~ a high degree of reliability and operability. This equipment ~~Such equipment, for example,~~ may require periodic servicing of components that may wear, be consumed, or become uncalibrated. It is common in the field of medical equipment servicing to provide for both "as needed" servicing (i.e. in response to service requests), and for regular servicing to ensure optimum performance and efficiency of equipment throughout medical institutions.

Additionally, please amend the specification by replacing the original paragraph at page 1, lines 19-25, with the following amended paragraph:

> Current approaches for ~~to~~ servicing medical equipment include regular ~~regularly timed~~ service calls, typically based upon contractual

arrangements between service providers and medical institutions. The service providers commonly schedule either on-site service visits or remote servicing, or both, on a regular timed basis. The intervals between such visits are generally determined in rather empirical fashions, however, and may vary widely between service providers, institutions, contracts, regions, and so forth, even for similar types of equipment or usage patterns.

Finally, please amend the specification by also replacing the original paragraph at page 7, lines 6-14, with the following amended paragraph:

The entire scheduling system 10 may then communicate with the various maintained systems 16, 18, and 20 via links to a network 32, over which it may transmit schedules and collect the data required for scheduling maintenance. Various algorithms may be implemented within scheduling system 10 to weigh different variables in determining an appropriate service interval. The calculated service intervals, along with collected data, system identifying data, and other data, may then be stored within a suitable memory in scheduling system 10 at a location proximate device group 12 (such as within the devices comprising systems 16, 18, and 20, or within computer 26 of interface station 24) or at a location remote from device group 12, such as at server 22 of scheduling system 10.